



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release OCTOBER 19, 1960

INTERIOR REVISES BOUNDARIES, ENLARGES "NO HUNTING" AREA ON FLORIDA COAST

Boundaries of a closed area lying within and adjacent to the Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge south of Tallahassee, Florida, are being changed the Department of the Interior reported today.

About 7,000 acres are being added to the area where waterfowl hunting will not be allowed.

The modified closed area will approximate 31,700 acres of nonrefuge land and water. The area of the refuge is 65,047 acres.

Notice of the closure and a complete description of the boundaries will be published in the Federal Register in the near future.

The revision was made primarily to provide additional protection to the Canada geese which use the refuge and Apalachee Bay. A serious decrease in the numbers of waterfowl on and around the refuge necessitated the additional closing. The only effect of the designation is to close the area to waterfowl hunting. Notice of intention to do this was published in the Federal Register on August 13.

The previous closing order was issued in 1953. The new order excludes certain lands within the north boundary of the Wakulla tract; includes lands which were, until recently, managed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission under a cooperative agreement; includes the privately owned Wakulla Beach property, and includes certain lands and waters around the Sopchoppy River.

X X X